

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00989 100646Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 A-01 DHA-02

OC-05 CCO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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P 091140Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3865

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, PDIP, PINR, SOPN, US, MZ

SUBJECT: DETAINED AMCIT MISSIONARIES

REF: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES A-87; (B) LOURENCO MARQUES 951

1. CONSULAR OFFICER OVERLY SPOKE WITH WIFE OF DETAINED AMERICAN CITIZEN MISSIONARY DONALD MILAM REGARDING STATUS OF JAILED MISSIONARIES. MRS. MILAM HAS BEEN ABLE TO TAKE FOOD AND TO VISIT HER HUSBAND AND ANOTHER MISSIONARY, HUGH FRIBERG. MRS. MILAM INDICATED THAT ONE DAY DURING WEEK OF SEP 1-5 AMCIT ARMAND DOLL WAS INTERROGATED THIRTEEN STRAIGHT HOURS; FRIBERG QUESTIONED FOR TEN STRAIGHT HOURS SAME DAY. MRS. MILAM REPORTS WELFARE OF IMPRISONED MISSIONARIES OTHERWISE GOOD, AT LEAST IN CASES OF MILAM AND FRIBERG. DOLL IS BEING HELD SEPARATE FROM OTHER TWO AND IS NOT PERMITTED VISITORS.

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WM QUESTIONS INCLUDED WHY AMERICAN MISSIONARY COMMUNITY IS

SO INTIMATE, WHY THEY SPEND SO MUCH TIME WITH EACH OTHER, WHO MET FRIBERG WHEN HE ARRIVED IN MOZAMBIQUE. FRIBERG ALSO WAS ASKED, "WHO IS THIS JAMES OVERLY AND WHY DID HE VISIT MISSIONARIES IN THE NORTH"?

COMMENT: MISSIONARY COMMUNITY REMAINS CLOSE BECAUSE THEY HAVE MUCH IN COMMON, AND U.S. COMMUNITY VERY SMALL IN MOZAMBIQUE. WHEN FRIBERG ARRIVED, TYPICAL OF NEW ARRIVALS, HE WAS MET BY MISSIONARIES REPRESENTING SEVERAL DIFFERENT CHURCHES. (OVERLY'S TRIP REPORTED REF A). LINE OF QUESTIONING DURING INTERROGATION OF MISSIONARIES PLUS EXPERIENCE OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY JOHN POE (REF B) TAKEN TOGETHER WITH COMMENTS BY INTERIOR MINISTER GUEBUZA THAT JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES ARE "ALL AGENTS OF THE CIA" (REF B) POINT TO FACT THAT AT LEAST SOME MEMBERS OF GPRM FIND A CONSPIRACY THEORY TERRIBLY ATTRACTIVE. BY BRINGING VICE-CONSUL INTO PICTURE AUTHORITIES MAY BE TRYING TO ESTABLISH DIRECT LINK BETWEEN MISSIONARIES AND USG. ONE CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE THE EFFECTS OF THE MEDIA WHICH FOR OVER A YEAR HAVE LAMBASTED THE U.S. AND PRINTED EVERY VICIOUS RUMOR AND INNUENDO ABOUT COVERT AMERICAN ACTIVITY TO BRING DOWN "PROGRESSIVE" GOVERNMENTS. AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR IS THE BUMBLEDOM OF MOZAMBIQUE BUREAUCRACY WHERE EVERYBODY IS DOING EVERYTHING FOR THE FIRST TIME, A VICE-CONSUL'S LEGITIMATE CONCERN FOR THE PROTECTION OF HIS COUNTRY'S CITIZENS IS BEYOND THEIR EXPERIENCE.

JACOBSEN

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